How I Draw Hair

Hair comes in many shapes, sizes, twists, colors andturns. This is true for hair on people and on animals. As aresult, drawing hair is difficult. How do I draw hair?

To make drawing hair simple, I follow four rules.

1. Go with the flow! Always draw in the directionthe hair grows. Whether the hair is short or long, I figureout which way it is growing: first and never veer fromthat flow. Otherwise the hair will look unnatural. I thinkof it like driving a car or petting a cat. If I wentagainst the flow, I’d get hurt!

2. Draw dark to light! I always find the dark areaostart my pencil line. Then I follow the flow toward thelighter areas. This way, my line will flow, right now. Itwould help if you read my lesson on “Shading” becausethe light areas in hair will make more sense. The lightareas are where the light bounces off the hair to youreyes, like the high spot on an individual curl or the highpoints around the crown of the head. These “bounces”are where the hair has sheen.

3. Draw hard to soft! When drawing dark to light I alwaysstart by squeezing hard on the paper and graduallyreleasing the pressure to where the stroke ends with justa whisper.

4. Keep still! Finally, I always keep my arm and handon the desk or held comfortably in front of me, thumbup. I only have about a 45° range of motion for drawing in this position. But, for motion, I move mydrawing board underneath my hand instead.

Now shampoo, rinse and re... I mean follow these steps for every strand, curl, tuft and lock until theentire head (or body) of hair is drawn!

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